

Better Living Through Sports

The U.S. Embassy in Bolivia, with the support of the Office of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State, launched a program called “3 Sports, 2 Communities, 1 Healthy Life” to promote a healthy lifestyle through sports.

Sports help maintain mental and physical health, and exercise is important for the



Children from Yotala participate in the book donation at the town's plaza.

development of young people. The Embassy organized three programs focused on sports that the United States and Bolivia have in common.

In the first program, the Embassy brought two soccer experts to work with young players and their coaches in La Paz, El Alto, and Yungas.

In the second program, the Embassy worked with baseball players in Tarija along with the



Cyclists from the U.S. Embassy pose in Yotala.

active participation of the Embassy's Military Group members.

In the third program, the Charge d'Affaires, Krishna Urs, led dozens of Embassy employees and their family members on a 160 kilometer bicycle ride on the road between Potosi and Sucre. The group stopped in two small towns along the way to play friendly games of soccer, and to give bicycles and art supplies donated by INL's Narcotics Affairs Section of the Embassy to the winners of a painting contest called “A Healthy Life Through Sports.” •



Narcotics Affairs Section Opens in Juba

INL opened its offices in the U.S. Consulate in Juba this past February. Director Kelly Buenrostro and Deputy Program Manager J. V. O. Weaver, work with the Southern Sudan Police Service (SSPS) to assist this four-year old government meet its peace agreement mandates before upcoming elections in February 2010. Amidst tribal rivalry and escalating local violence, INL mentors local police in basic training, ethics, and building public trust. U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan, General Scott Gration, visited in April for an orientation of State and USAID programs in Juba.



JVO Weaver, PA&E Deputy Program Manager, US Special Envoy to Sudan, General Scott Gration and INL Director, Kelly Buenrostro

Assistant Secretary for Diplomatic Security also visited Juba along with Charge D'Affaires a.i. from Khartoum, Mark Asquino and toured Juba's police training facility accompanied by Major General

Marol Makur, SSPS Director of Training. They met with over 300 police recruits in open-air classrooms. Recruits in Rumbek demonstrated their parade maneuvers during a recent visit by the INL team. INL Juba is currently working with International Donors in building a training



SSPS police trainer Colonel Akon Riak Akon with his recruits in Bor. The recruits drill with carved wooden rifles and train in the most basic primitive conditions.

compound outside of Juba to alleviate crowding in the current facility.

INL Juba also has police training advisors in Rumbek and Bor, both remote locations with little or no infrastructure. Classroom training is conducted outside under “tukels” often with only straw roofs. Since sanitation conditions are poor and many recruits are in ill health, INL Juba must focus on improving health and hygiene conditions before moving into literacy programs and basic police training. •

For further information, visit:

www.state.gov/p/inl

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Public Security Secretary Garcia Luna greets from left to right: Keith Mines (NAS Director), Dave Wattley (FBI Director), Dr. Jorge Valdez Castellanos (SSP Advisor Coordinator), & Paul Mahlstedt (NAS Merida Coordinator).

INL Helps Lead Interagency Investigator Training Surge for Mexican Federal Police

The Department of State's, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), in partnership with the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security, is assisting in the training of 1,500 new investigative police for the Mexican Federal Police (SSP). As many as 80 active duty U.S. law enforcement officers will be participating in this major training effort. Under Mexico's new Police Law, the Federal Police will expand their role in the conduct of “preventive investigations,” requiring the addition of over 9,000 college-educated, trained investigators. The new law is part of sweeping legislation that better clarifies roles and respon-

sibilities within Mexico's security forces and creates stronger systems for internal controls and a clear trajectory for professional development. The new law also will rationalize the various federal, state, and local security forces, giving them certain common training and professional standards.

The U.S. Embassy Narcotics Affairs Section (NAS) Mexico coordinators and contractors have been embedded with SSP officials for the past month to shape a five-week course that will cover forensics, investigative techniques, surveillance, interviewing, and crime scene management at the SSP base at San Luis Potosi. It will follow a seven-week basic police training course that the SSP will teach to the new recruits in universities around Mexico City. The connection with universities, and the intake of large numbers of university graduates into the federal police, is a key part of the vision of Public Security Secretary Garcia Luna, who wants a police force that is not only well trained and properly vetted, but which is a part of mainstream society.

At the inaugural ceremony for the new course, attended by 12 members of

Embassy Law Enforcement agencies, 1,500 new recruits were formed at the SSP Command Center of Iztapalapa in suburban Mexico City, an impressive gathering not only for the numbers but the quality of the new officers. In addition to comments by Secretary Garcia Luna, President Calderon in a video feed told the new recruits that the promulgation of the new police law and the inauguration of the new course, would be a new era for Mexico's police. One of the several university rectors who spoke said that his daughter called him recently from Ciudad Juarez with the news that she was joining the new investigative police. He said, perhaps this time things really would be different and Mexico will develop a capable federal police force that can turn the corner on increasing cartel violence. The NAS team, which in addition to the trainers and coordinators, includes an essential back office staff of accountants, procurement specialists, and program assistants, feels privileged to be in on this historic effort from the beginning. •

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INL contractor for Flight Security, Chris Schott from Columbus, GA, comforts little girl onboard Air Wing Mi-8 helicopter.

Afghan Humanitarian Mission

On April 29th, the INL Air Wing returned a four-year-old Afghan girl to her home after undergoing numerous surgeries in a burn center in Kabul. She was flown to Kabul, Afghanistan on April 4th from a small Afghan tribal village about 60 miles to the Southeast after receiving burns on more than 70 percent of her body as a result of being scalded with boiling water at her home near Salerno. The Department of State Air Wing supported the air movement of the girl, as well as medical volunteers, to and from Kabul. In better spirits now, she has returned home for further treatment at a smaller hospital near her home. ●



The first 24 federal corrections officers from Mexico graduate from their training in New Mexico.

Merida Prison Reform Program Underway

As part of the Merida Initiative, the Department of State's Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) is assisting the Government of Mexico with establishing its first federal corrections academy. It is scheduled to be opened by President Felipe Calderón in late June 2009. Other assistance includes helping to reform Mexico's prisoner classification and intake system, activating several new penitentiaries, and creating a prisoner transportation unit.

INL, through a Memorandum of Understanding with the New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD), is training and mentoring prison staff from Mexico at the NMCD Academy in Santa Fe. Using an INL/Government of Mexico approved curriculum, the courses are being taught by NMCD certified instructors.

On Friday April 24, 2009, the first class of twenty-four federal correctional instructors from Mexico (22 men and 2 women) graduated from NMCD Training Academy in Santa Fe, New Mexico. These officers are now working as the initial cadre of instructors at Mexico's federal corrections academy in Xalapa, Veracruz.

The Mexican instructor candidates began their six-week training class at the NMCD Training Academy on March 16. They

received basic instruction for four weeks, defensive tactics instructor course for one week, and during the final week, train-the-trainer instruction. Dignitaries from Mexico and the U.S. Department of State were present for the graduation ceremony.

While the corrections instructor candidates were training in New Mexico, 22 personnel from Mexico's prisoner classification section were in Colorado participating in training on the latest in modern prisoner classification and intake systems. Like that in New Mexico, this training was provided through a Memorandum of Understanding between Colorado and INL. At the conclusion of the training on May 1, 2009, these 22 personnel returned to Mexico where they began work on reforming the current classification and intake systems.

Additional training to support the Merida Initiative's prison reform program is scheduled to occur in New Mexico and Colorado throughout the remainder of 2009. In addition to this training, INL is providing mentoring programs in Mexico and Central America through the recent deployment of two corrections program coordinators. One coordinator is based in Mexico and the other is based in Honduras. ●



Sewing machines during the initial project setup review, conducted by (left to right): the Kandahar Ministry of Counter Narcotics Regional Director, the Kandahar Director of Women's Affairs, CNAT's International Advisor Leila Martin (Prescott, AZ), and CNAT's Team Leader Hamkar Mirajan.

Women's Sewing Project Begins for Recovering Drug Addicts in Kandahar

This April, INL's Counternarcotics Advisory Team (CNAT), in coordination with the Department of Women's Affairs and Kandahar Women's Civil Society, commenced the Kandahar Sewing Project for recovering female drug addicts in the province. The project will teach 30 women sewing and tailoring skills to earn income for themselves, and to produce clothing for their families and local school-children.

Throughout the course, the CNAT Gender Affairs Officer will give daily educational presentations on the harmful impact of drug cultivation, distribution and abuse, sharing messages with the women to take back to their families and communities.

Upon graduating, participants will receive sewing machines, fabric, thread and other supplies to enable them to start their own tailoring businesses. In addition, CNAT will give the graduates basic household items such as blankets, cooking supplies, cleaning supplies and backpacks for their children.

This is the third sewing project in Kandahar. Jointly funded by the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and INL, and organized by CNAT, the roughly

\$7,000 project has been hugely successful, inspiring similar projects in Helmand and other provinces.

Last year, Kandahar participants made 660 school uniforms over the duration of the two-month course. Significantly, the 60 women who attended the first two courses all have remained drug-free since graduating.

CNAT Background: Launched in 2006, the Counternarcotics Advisory Team (CNAT) program is a year-round campaign that aims to reduce poppy cultivation by conducting local outreach activities and providing direct support to Governors in seven key provinces (Bada-khshan, Balkh, Farah, Helmand, Kandahar, Nangarhar and Uruzgan), which together account for over 90 percent of Afghan poppy. Teams rely on Afghan officers to conduct outreach, provide cultural and language knowledge, and work within traditional leadership structures. Building Afghan ownership and investment in the fight against drugs, from the bottom up, is at the heart of the CNAT model and represents the way forward for our greater counternarcotics strategy in Afghanistan. ●



INL's Assistant Secretary David T. Johnson addresses the OAS Drug Commission

OAS Drug Commission Plans Review of Strategy and Work Plan

U.S. Department of State Assistant Secretary David Johnson led the U.S. Delegation to the May 2009 biannual meeting of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Commission (CICAD), the narcotics control arm of the Organization of American States (OAS).

The 34 Commissioners at the gathering in Washington, D.C., agreed to review and update the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and the CICAD plan of action in accord with the finding of a similar exercise conducted under the auspices of the U.N.'s Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). Brazil will spearhead this effort beginning with an experts meeting this September in Sao Paulo.

Johnson, who heads the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, expressed the United States' firm support for CICAD policies and programs, noting the Administration's keen interest in using drug awareness, treatment and rehabilitation programs to best advantage and especially in terms of update scientific findings. "It is timely to reflect on CICAD's direction for the next decade, against the backdrop of the policies and agreements embodied in the hemispheric documents as well as through the United Nations," Johnson said.

INL's Assistant Secretary will assume chairmanship of the CICAD Commission at its November 2009 meeting in Miami, Florida, the first time the U.S. has held this leadership role in the Commission's 22-year history. The November meeting will be supported by Suriname as the vice chair. ●

Significantly, the 60 women who attended the first two courses all have remained drug-free since graduating. ●